AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) An embolism protection device comprising a delivery tool and a plurality of fibers in a bundle comprising a polymer and having surface capillaries characterized by one or more grooves along the length of the fibers, wherein the fibers are associated with the delivery tool and have a deployed configuration that fills the lumen of a vessel having a diameter corresponding to that of a human vessel in the form of a porous filtration structure forming a fibrous filter mat that blocks a substantial majority of particulates with a diameter greater than about 0.2 mm while allowing the passage of blood cells.

2. (Previously Presented) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers comprise a hydrophilic polymer.

3. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers comprise polyester.

4. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers comprise a bioresorbable polymer.

5. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers are within a fabric.

6. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers are curled.

7. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers have a curled configuration at body temperature.

8. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers are in a bundle.

9. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers are grafted with a second polymer.

10. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 9 wherein the second polymer is a hydrogel.

11. (Previously Presented) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the porous filtration structure within the vessel has an effective pore size to trap a majority of emboli with a diameter larger than 0.2 mm while a majority of particulates with a diameter smaller than 0.001 mm pass.

12. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 further comprising a biocompatible adhesive.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A method for trapping emboli, the method comprising placing an embolism protection device of claim 1 within a patient's vessel.

15-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the plurality of fibers of the embolism protection device of claim 1 are in a bundle.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the placing of the fibers is performed with the delivery tool that associates with the fibers.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the delivery tool holds the fibers in a configuration for passage through a sheath for deployment of the fibers within a vessel.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the plurality of fibers of the embolism protection device of claim 1 are deployed to the porous filtration structure that fills the lumen of the vessel with an effective pore size to trap a selected range of emboli.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the delivery tool comprises a guidewire.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the fibers are curled at body temperature.

28. (Previously Presented) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the delivery tool is a guidewire.

29. (Previously Presented) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers are attached to the delivery tool with an adhesive.